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Message Text

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44
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /040 W
---------- 014010
R 221148Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1643

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4842

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, ELAB, IR
SUBJ: PARTIAL WORKER OWNERSHIP OF IRANIAN INDUSTRIES

REF: (A) STATE 117805, (B) TEHRAN A-90, 5 MAY 1975

1. THE ONLY MOVE OF WHICH THE EMBASSY IS AWARE TOWRDS IMPLEMENTING THE IMPERIAL DECREE ON PARTIAL WORKER OWNERSHIP OF IRANIAN INDUSTRIES SINCE REFERENCE B WAS DRAFTED WAS THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PARLIAMENT ON MAY 13. WHILE THE TEXT OF THE BILL WAS PUBLISEHD IN THE PRESS, IT GIVES NO MORE OF THE SPECIFICS OF HOW THE SCHEME WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED THAN WAS KNOWN PREVIOUSLY. IT STATES THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGISLATION WILL BE GOVERNED BY BY-LAWS BEING FORMULATED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR THE EXPANSION OF OWNERSHIP OF PRODUCTIVE UNITS, CHAIRED BY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE HUSHANG ANSARY. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANSUR RUHANI, MINISTER OF STATE AND DIRECTOR OF THE PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION ABDOL-MAJID MAJIDI, MINISTER OF JUSTICE SADEGH AHMADI, MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE AMIR-GHASEM MOINI, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES AND MINES FAROKH NAJMABADI, MINISTER OF COMMERCE FERIDUN MAHDAVI, CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR MOHAMED YEGANEH, AND PRESIDENT OF THE IRAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES AND MINES TAHER ZIAI.

2. PASSAGE OF THE BILL BY PARLIAMENT IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. THE COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN MEETING TO WORK OUT
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THE IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS. THEIR TASK IS DIFFICULT.

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PARTIAL WORKER OWNERSHIP OF INDUSTRIES IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A NOT INFREQUENTY OCCURRING PROBLEM IN IRAN OF A DIRECTIVE HAVING COME DOWN FROM THE TOP APPARENTLY WITH LITTLE PRIOR CONSIDERATION HAVING BEEN GIVEN TO THE PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTATION. WE HAVE NO MORE INDICATION OF HOW THE DIFFICULTIES REPORTED IN REFERENCE B MAY BE OVERCOME OR WHEN THE IMPLEMENTATIO REGULATIONS WILL BE READY.

3. IN THE MANTIME, BOTH U.S. AND IRANIAN BUSINESSMEN CONTINUE TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN OVER THE PROSPECT OF 49 PERCENT WORKER AND PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT LEARNED OF ANY INVESTMENT DECISIONS THAT ARE ACTUALLY BEING DEFERRED BECAUSE OF THE PROPOSAL.
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